

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:AHALE

11/13/73 EXT. 21530

S/S-O:K.KURZE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 224458

EXDIS TOSEC 493

THE FOL TEL RECVD FM PANAMA DATED NOV 13, 1973 TO
SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPTED:

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 6112

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PN, PFOR

SUBJ: CONVERSATION BETWEEN SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
AND FOREIGN MINISTER TACK

REF: PANAMA 6083

SUMMARY: SECRETARY OF ARMY CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER NOVEMBER 12
AND HAD VERY CORDIAL 30 MINUTE CONVERSATION. TACK SAID THAT HE
WAS VERY ENCOURAGED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF REACHING AGREEMENT AS
RESULT OF HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND AMBASSADOR
BUNKER IN NEW YORK. SECRETARY STRESSED NEED FOR BOTH SIDES TO
CONSIDER OTHER'S REQUIREMENTS AND MAINTAIN POSITIVE ATTITUDE.
END SUMMARY.

1. TACK SAID MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR PANAMA WAS HISTORY AND
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NATIONAL PRIDE. HE HAD BEEN BRIEFED ON CALLAWAY-LOPEZ GUEVARA
CONVERSATION (RETEL) AND BELIEVED HE UNDERSTOOD ISSUES OF MAJOR
IMPORTANCE TO U S (FOREIGN MINISTER DID NOT DISCUSS ANY ISSUE
SPECIFICALLY, OBVIOUSLY PREFERRING TO KEEP CONVERSATION GENERAL

AND LEAVE SPECIFIC POINTS TO GENERAL TORRIJOS.) FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT U S AND PANAMA HAD MANY MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST ON WHICH WE WERE TOGETHER. HE CONSIDERED RELATIONS EXCELLENT. THE ONLY ISSUE DIVIDING US IS THE CANAL, HE SAID.

2. SECRETARY CALLAWAY COMMENDED FOREIGN MINISTER FOR POSITIVE ATTITUDE OF GOP IN RECENT MONTHS. HE THOUGHT CONGRESS WOULD RESPOND TO POSITIVE APPROACH WHEREAS IT REACTED NEGATIVELY TO PRESSURE. HE SHARED FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEWS ON AMBASSADOR BUNKER'S CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITY, AFTER LISTENING AND WEIGHING VARYING VIEWPOINTS, TO FIND ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE. HE NOTED CONSIDERABLE PRIDE ON U S SIDE BECAUSE OF ITS ACCOMPLISHMENT IN CONSTRUCTING CANAL WHERE OTHERS HAD FAILED. IT WAS "MOONSHOT" AT TURN OF CENTURY AND SOLUTION HAD TO GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO THIS STRONG FEELING OF U S.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID CANAL ISSUE IS ON AGENDA OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING. HE SAID MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTER ADDED IT AND HE RECALLED REBASA HAD TOLD SECRETARY IN NEW YORK THAT CANAL WOULD BE ONE OF ITEMS. I AGAIN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ISSUE WOULD BE HANDLED CONSTRUCTIVELY AND ANY EFFORT TO PRESSURE U S G PUBLICLY WOULD BE AVOIDED. OTHERWISE IT WOULD HAVE VERY NEGATIVE EFFECT ON NEGOTIATIONS. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT AND ISSUE WOULD BE ADDRESSED IN "NON-CONFLICTIVE" MANNER AND ONLY FOR PURPOSE OF RECORDING THAT CANAL ISSUE IS A MATTER OF CONCERN TO LATIN AMERICA.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER CLOSED THE INTERVIEW BY STATING HE WAS OPTIMISTIC AND EXPRESSING HOPE THAT EVENTS OVER COMING MONTHS WOULD NOT GIVE HIM CAUSE TO BE PESSIMISTIC. SAYRE

UNQTE CASEY

CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, AGREEMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE224458
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/S-O:AHAE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750026-0368
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731167/abqcejvj.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: PANAMA 6083
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Nov-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <19-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION BETWEEN SECRETARY OF THE ARMY AND FOREIGN MINISTER TACK
TAGS: PFOR, US, PN
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005